REV. ADAM POE, D. D., President.
LEVI COFFIN, General Agent.
REV. R. S. RUST, D. D., Corresponding Secretary.
J. F. LARKIN, Treasurer.
THOS. KENNEDY, Assistant Treasurer.
HON. WILLIAM PENN NIXON, Chairman Board of Directors.

P. O. BOX 932.

WESTERN FREEDMEN'S AID COMMISSION,
NO. 87 WEST SIXTH ST.,
OHIO MEDICAL COLLEGE,

(1)

Cincinnati, March 8th 1866.

85

Wm. Lloyd Garrison,
Boston! Mass,

Dear Sir,

You have doubtless been informed of the Union between the American Freedmen's Aid Commission and the American Union Commission. "The object" as set forth in the Constitution, "is to aid and co-operate with the people of the South, without distinction of race or color, in the improvement of their condition upon the basis of industry, education, freedom, and Christian morality."

This Commission differs radically from the Freedmen's. This seeks to elevate the poor whites of the South as well as the freedmen, ours seeks to aid only the freedmen, believing them to have pre-eminent

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claims upon us, and as our funds are not sufficient for all, we must confine our work to the most needy, and to those most likely to be neglected by others. However commendable the enterprise of aiding the poor whites of the South may be, yet our Commission was organized for the specific purpose of delivering the Millions who have just escaped from the house of bondage, and our convictions of duty will not allow our society to be diverted from its original object to any other however laudable it may be. Our original mission work, and still must be to elevate the race that has been degraded by centuries of oppression and wrong, to illuminate the minds of millions from

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whom the light of intelligence
and religion has so long been
excluded by legal enactments
Our Board of Directors
has taken the following action —
Resolved.

That the Western Freed-
men's Aid Commission deems
it expedient to adhere to the
basis already adopted in our
league charter, and labor as
heretofore for the benefit of
the freedmen —

We cannot
become auxiliary to this Union
Commission. because
1st. It contemplates an object
not in harmony with the spirit
and letter of our Preamble
and Constitution, and we have
failed to find reasons sufficiently
authoritative to induce us to de-
sire such change —

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2nd- It will distract the efforts and decrease the contributions of the benevolent in behalf of the freedmen-

3d- The transition through which the freedmen, attended with so much suffering and cruelty on the part of the disloyal whites, remonstrates in thunder tones against any diversion of our efforts or contributions from this unfortunate race.
The Legislatures of the South are making provision for the work of their poor whites; and it is a duty from which we cannot escape to consecrate our energies afresh to the amelioration of this neglected class, not on account of color, but on account of that degraded

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condition forced upon them by long-protracted oppression!

We trust that we have your sympathy in our action, and earnestly desire that you will give us your influence in the great work of elevating millions of emancipated freedmen. We should be pleased to hear from you on this subject at your earliest convenience.

Respectfully Yours

R. S. Rust

Cor. Sec. W. F. A. Com.

I fully endorse the above sentiments & principles, and heartily concur with Dr Rust & the action of our Board, as expressed in the within letter. and hope thou will agree with us in these sentiments and that we shall have thy hearty cooperation & sympathy

Truly thy friend

Levi Coffin

I heartily concur in the above, & believe it to be the sentiments of our Board

Thos Kennedy